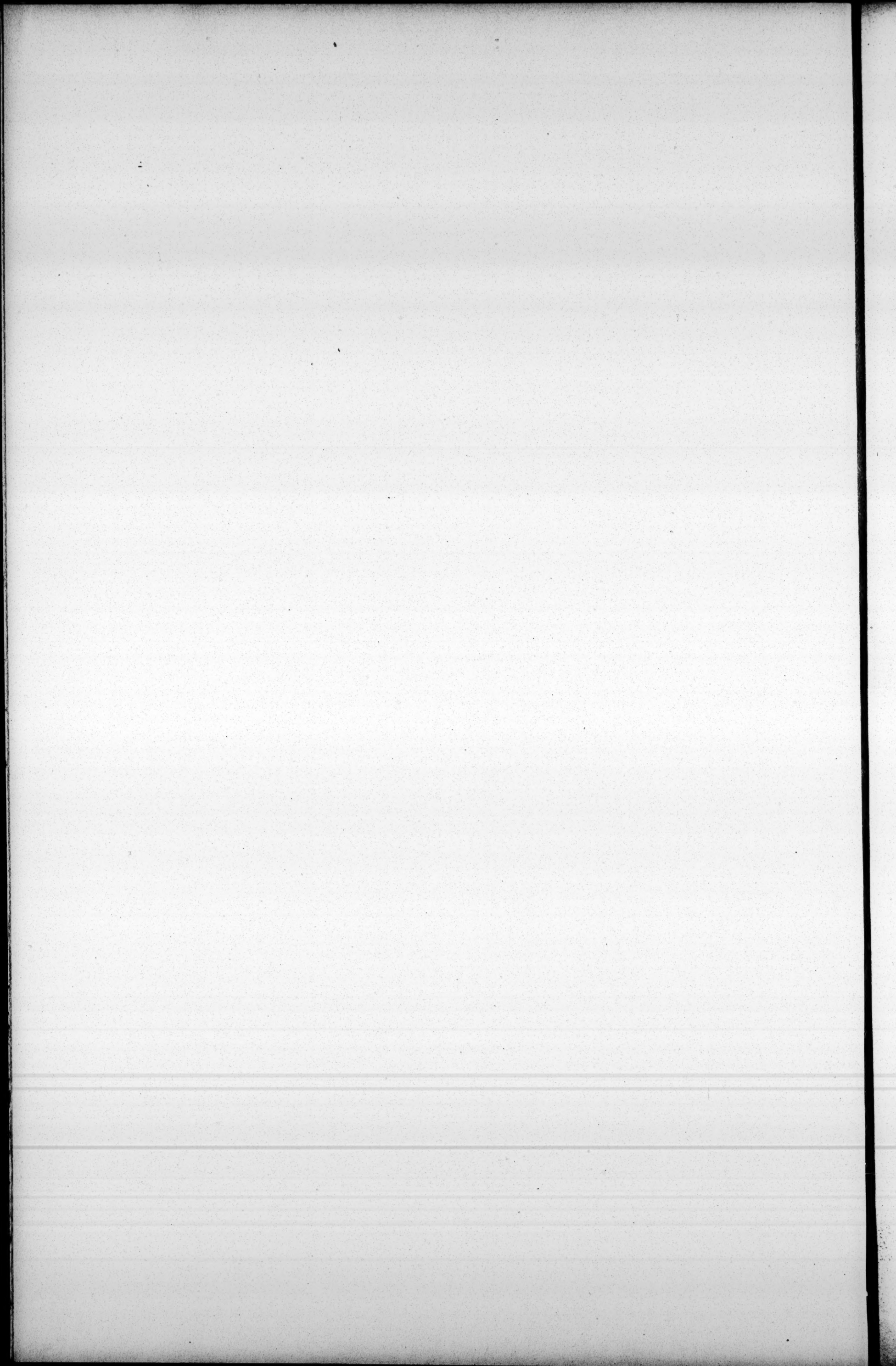




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GOOD BROTHER,

Intending, by God's Blessing, to be ready on
in the Parish-Church of
 after Prayers, to Confirm such of your Parish
 as have not been yet Confirmed; that it may be done to
 the more Edification, and greater Advantage of your Flock,
 I thought good to send you these following Directions.

- I. Inquire, as diligently as you can, Which of your Parishioners have not been yet Confirmed, since they were Baptized.
- II. Apply your self particularly to each of them, and examine Whether they can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and are so well Instructed in the Church-Catechism, that they are now fit to be Confirmed. And if you find any that are not, I need not tell you what Obligations lie upon you, to do all you can to fit them, if not against this, at least against the next opportunity they may have of being Confirmed.
- III. You are to bring or send in Writing, With your hand Subscribed thereunto, the Names of all such as you think fit to be presented to me, in order to their being Confirmed, if I shall approve of them.
- IV. Bring none under the Age of Twelve Years, except you find that they have attained to greater knowledge in the Principles of the Christian Religion, than is usual at that Age.
- V. All that come, should have every one a God-father or God-mother, as a Witness of their Confirmation.
- VI. Keep the Names of all those who are Confirmed always by you, that you may afterwards put them in mind of what they then Promised; and likewise prepare them, as soon as may be, to receive the Sacrament of the Lords-Supper.
- VII. The Lord's-Day before Confirmation, I desire you to Read this following Exhortation, not only in English, but also in the Brittish Tongue, where that is better understood: And for that purpose you may do well to Translate it before-hand into that Language, that so you may Read it the more readily.

The

*The EXHORTATION, to be Read the Sunday before
Confirmation, immediately after the Nicene Creed.*

BRETHREN,

YOU are desired to take notice, that on
next, in Church
after Prayer, the Bishop will be
ready, by Gods Assistance, to *Confirm* those of this Parish
who shall be rightly disposed and fitted for it.

Which therefore, that you who have not been yet *Confirmed*, may be, so as to receive the Benefit of it, you must first call to mind the solemn Vow and Promise which you made, when you were by Baptism admitted into the *Church of Christ*, and so made Members of his Body, the Children of God, and Inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven, according to the Promises which God hath made to you in *Jesus Christ*.

You then promised on your part, that you would renounce the Devil and all his Works, constantly believe God's Holy Word, and obediently keep his Commandments. This Promise you then made by your Godfathers and Godmothers, who did it in your Name, till you should come of Age to take it upon your selves. And now that it hath pleased God to continue your Life so long, that you are come to Years of discretion, you ought accordingly, to take the said Promise upon your selves, and with your own Mouth and Consent openly before the Church, Ratify and Confirm the same, and also Promise, that, by the Grace of God, (without which you can do nothing) you will endeavour your selves faithfully to observe such Things as you, by your own Confession, have Assented to. Without which you have no ground to expect that God should perform his Promise to you.

When you have thus in your own Persons renewed the Promise that was made in your Name, at your Baptism, after a short Prayer, that God would strengthen and enable you to keep your Word with him, the Bishop, after the example of the Holy Apostles, lays his Hand upon each of your Heads, certifying you thereby of God's Favour and gracious Goodness, in giving you the manifold Gifts and Graces of his Spirit; and Prays at the same that he would defend you with his Heavenly Grace, that ye may continue his for ever, and daily increase in his Holy Spirit more and more, till you come to his Everlasting Kingdom.

When

When all are *Confirmed*, as the High-Priest under the Law, by God's own Appointment, Blessed the People in his Name, so the Bishop dismisseth you with the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, one God Blessed for Ever.

These things were thought necessary to be laid before you at this time, that you may understand the nature and design, and likewise the great use of *Confirmation*, where it may be had, and how much it concerns you to prepare your selves for it, that you may grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour *Jesus Christ*. But that it may have its due effect upon you, you must always keep in remembrance the Promise you then made to God; and strive all you can to believe and live for the future, as becometh his Servants and his Children.

And for that purpose, you must live with a constant Faith and Trust in God, that he, according to his Word, will hear the Prayers and grant the Petitions that were then put up for you in the Name of *Christ*, and for his sake, will accordingly be graciously pleased to give and continue his Holy Spirit to you, to direct and assist you through the whole course of your lives, that you may be able to withstand the Temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil, and do all such good Works as God hath prepared for you to walk in: That his Grace may be always sufficient for you, and his strength made perfect in your weakness: That his power may rest continually upon you, and his Blessing upon whatsoever you have, or do. That so you may shine as Lights while you are in this World; and when you go out of it, may be numbred with the Saints in Glory Everlasting.

*Which God of his infinite Mercy grant you all may,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



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